

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

May 11, 2016

Al R. Roshdieh
Director

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Montgomery County Planning Board
Casey Anderson, Chair
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Re: Guidance for the Location of Utilities in the Public Right-of-Way

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The following guidelines have been adopted by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to provide consistent direction in the design and location of utilities in public rights-of-way.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

It is acceptable for "wet" utilities, including water, sewer and gas, to be located under the paved portion of the right-of-way.

Except as otherwise noted in this policy, "dry" utilities, including electric, telephone, fiberoptic, etc., whether above ground or underground, are to be placed outside of the paved portion of the roadway, either within the public right-of-way or within a public utility easement. In all circumstances, utility placement should be coordinated with other right-of-way features including enclosed storm drainage, streetlights and conduit, traffic signals and interconnect conduit, street trees, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, stormwater management facilities, traffic signage, etc.

URBAN AREAS WITH ZERO BUILDING SETBACK

The Planning Board may occasionally determine that, to implement master plan visions for the optimal balance of land use, mobility, and community character within a County Council-identified urban area, new buildings within those urban developments may be positioned adjacent to the right-of-way line on County-maintained roadways with zero building setback. This building placement will effectively preclude provision of a standard public utility easement adjacent and contiguous to the public rights-of-way.

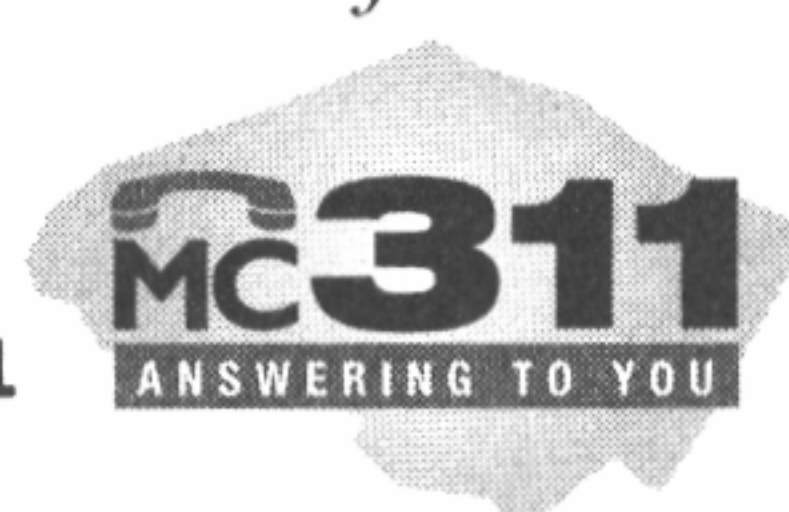
Office of the Director

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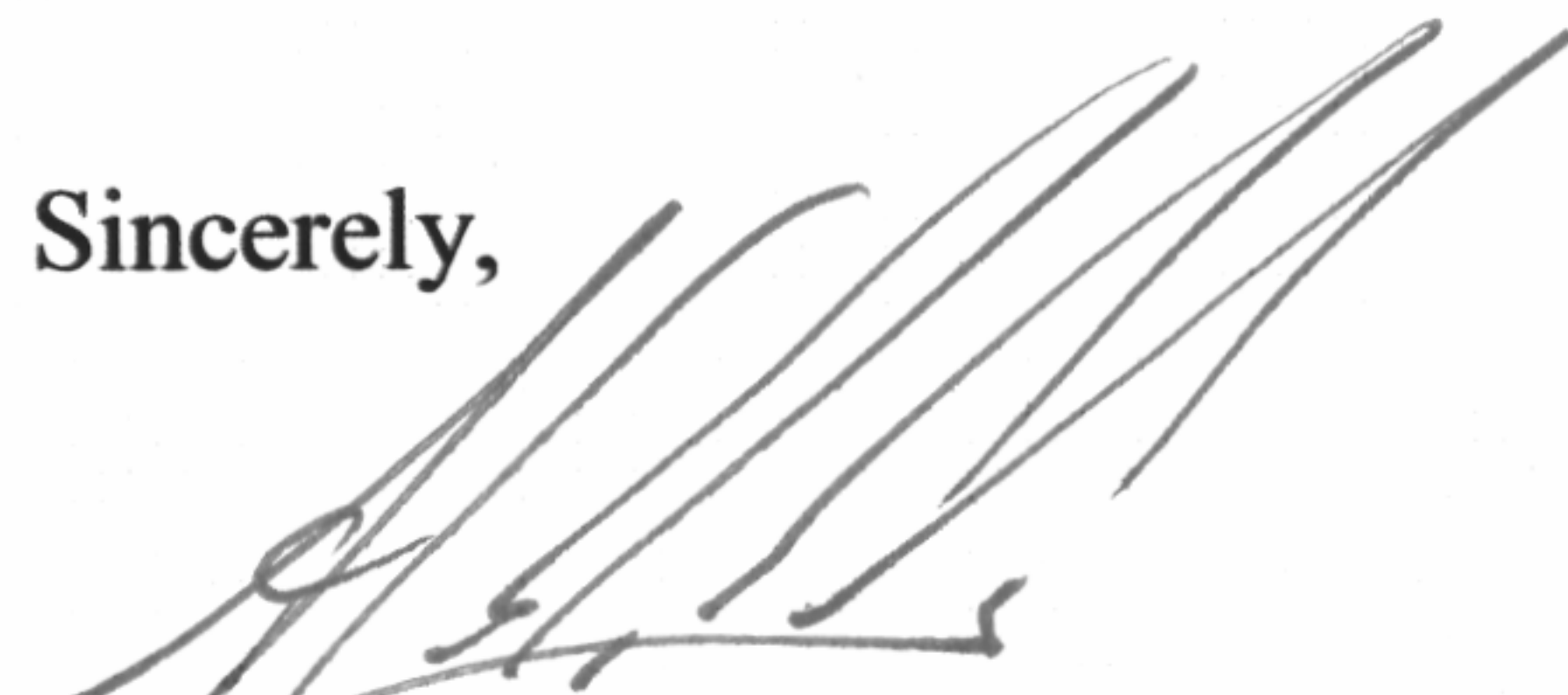
In these circumstances, MCDOT's preference for location of underground "dry" utilities is as follows, in order of priority:

- 1) In alleys, private roads and privately owned open space behind the buildings where access by utility maintenance vehicles is available;
- 2) Under the sidewalk between the building and the street;
- 3) Under the on-street parking lanes;
- 4) Under a travel lane.

It is the responsibility of the utility companies, working with the project developer and his design consultant(s), to determine and coordinate the locations of the various proposed utilities. In these situations, MCDOT will require submission of a color coded utility concept plan at the preliminary plan stage, consistent with all applicable codes and submission requirements.

If you have any comments about these guidelines, please do not hesitate to contact Bruce Johnston, Chief, Division of Transportation Engineering, at 240-777-7236 or at Bruce.Johnston@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Sincerely,



Al R. Roshdieh
Director

CC: Gwen Wright, Planning Director
Diane Jones, DPS
MCDOT Division Chiefs